

Femme Boy



A Play in One Act

by

Jesse Fulton

Cast of Characters

Taylor Braun: 21, Male, masculine gay, closeted and filled with shame/stigma, wants to be a famous singer, roommate/best friend/music duo with Gage

Gage Cavarro: 21, Male, feminine straight, straight but metro, very open person and knows who he is, more sensitive, also wants to be a famous singer or musician, roommate/best friend/music duo with Taylor

Stacy: 35+, female, enthusiastic interviewer for a small local news station

SceneTimeACT IScene 1

SETTING: GAGE and TAYLOR's 2 bedroom apartment in a shitty part of LA like Burbank or Northridge. The living room has shitty old furniture and wall decor that no person over 25 would be proud to have hanging. The apartment should reflect that they are starving artists- aspiring musicians, who are certainly creative, but still poor and very straight. Style/decor is maybe not their forte.

AT RISE: TAYLOR sits alone on the couch with his guitar and some writing utensils. He sings

TAYLOR

(sung) I hope I never fall in love
Love is not a happy ending
Love is a dark room filled with mirrors
There's no escape, there's no pretending

And I hope I never meet a boy
A boy who sweeps me off my feet
A boy who makes it all seem worth it
Bitter always overpowers sweet

So I'll never fall in love
I'll never meet a boy
I don't wanna fall in love
Please don't- (the door swings open fast, TAYLOR frantically hides the songwriting notebook, GAGE enters)

GAGE

BRO CHECK YOUR PHONE RIGHT FUCKIN NOW.

TAYLOR

Holy shit, you scared the shit outta me.

GAGE

DUDE!! You gotta check your phone!

TAYLOR

I still haven't found my phone, I think I might've left it on the bus last night. But I told you you could facebook message me. Why? What's going on?

GAGE

Shit, my bad, I knew that. So you haven't been online today? Not at all?

TAYLOR

Just Facebook, but that doesn't really count. I thought your shift didn't get off until 8 tonight?

GAGE

I quit. No more In n Out for me, not anymore.

TAYLOR

What? Dude, why?

GAGE

You wanna know why?

TAYLOR

Yes, I wanna know why.

GAGE

You reeeaaaally wanna know why?

TAYLOR

Because no girl in their right mind wants to fuck the burger boy?

GAGE

Nope. We went viral.

TAYLOR

We went vir- wait what?

GAGE

The Frank Ocean cover we did last week- it went viral today. On TikTok.

TAYLOR

You're not serious, there's no way-

GAGE

I'm deadass, dude.

TAYLOR

I just checked it yesterday before I lost my phone. It had like 40 something likes.

GAGE

And today it has over 48k.

TAYLOR

FORTY EIGHT THOUSAND?

GAGE

And growing exponentially. Like every time I check it has another thousand likes. Or more, even.

TAYLOR

Holy fuck- oh my god- dude- holy fuck-

GAGE

I told you the Frank song was a good idea.

TAYLOR

This could be the start of- oh my god?

GAGE

I know. And I haven't even told you about how many followers we've gained. Only a couple thousand, which compared to the likes, but still-

TAYLOR

ONLY?!? We didn't even have ONE thousand yesterday, this is fucking huge!

GAGE

That's why I quit working the drive thru and picked up this on the way home (GAGE pulls out a bottle of champagne). To celebrate. Our music career might actually get started now. You wanna do the honors? I'll go grab some cups. (GAGE hands it off to TAYLOR and goes to grab red solo cups. They do not have champagne flutes.)

TAYLOR

To us. To our music. To our career. And to our friendship.

GAGE

Amen, brutha. Now pop that shit. (TAYLOR pops the cork and pours them both a cup. They cheers, take a sip, and wince.) Sorry it was the cheapest one I could find. I did quit my job so...

TAYLOR

Stop being a pussy about it, just drink. Or if you're gonna be a pussy at least go grab the tequila and two shot glasses so you have a decent excuse to wince like that.

GAGE

(following TAYLOR's orders) Hey I saw you wincing at that sip too, don't pretend to be the big man.

TAYLOR

No need to pretend, I'm big where it counts. (gesturing towards his dick)

GAGE

Fine, I'll pour you a double shot then since your dick is too big to taste alcohol.

TAYLOR

You know I can't turn down a good challenge. I'll take that double shot easy.

GAGE

Here you go, big man. (GAGE hands TAYLOR a double shot but nothing else. GAGE downs his with salt and lime, still winces)

TAYLOR

You didn't bring me salt or lime?

GAGE

I thought big dick Taylor was such a man he didn't even need a chaser?

TAYLOR

Fine. Watch how a reeeaaal man takes a shot. (TAYLOR downs it in one big gulp, and refuses to show any weakness.)

GAGE

Normally I'd punch you for being a douche, but I'm still riding the high of our new fame that I just feel like- like I'm so happy I could fuckin kiss you, bro.

TAYLOR

Try kissing me and I'll scream. (GAGE makes kissy faces and moves closer to TAYLOR.) Get any closer and I'll beat you the fuck up, I swear to god, dude. (The two wrestle, it's somewhat homoerotic, but they're just straight dudes being bros. TAYLOR comes out on top)

GAGE

Okay, okay, you win.

TAYLOR

What? You don't want to kiss anymore?

GAGE

You win, I said it already, you win, you've proved your dominance. You're a big strong man who's too manly for tastebuds or smooches.

TAYLOR

There we go. (hops off GAGE)

GAGE

Still a pussy though.

TAYLOR

Hey I'm not the homo who's suddenly picked up an affinity for jewelry and nail polish.

GAGE

The babes think it's hot as fuck though. Here, (taking out his phone to hand TAYLOR) literally scroll through the comments on our video. They're all "choke me daddy" and heart eyes with water droplet emojis. Its kinda creepy almost.

TAYLOR

(scrolling and reading) "I want an imprint of those rings on my neck"? "God gave me more than one hole for a reason"? Jesus Christ!

GAGE

I know, they get graphic... but then you click on their profile and they're all like 12 years old. (drinking his champagne)

TAYLOR

Damn, these are some nasty ass twelve year olds.

GAGE

Ew. Dude, they're 12, don't be a creep.

TAYLOR

I never said I was interested in them, fuck off. Just saying, I barely knew anything at that age.

GAGE

Really? You still hadn't looked at porn or anything by 12?

TAYLOR

Yo, what the fuck is this comment.

GAGE

What is it?

TAYLOR

This guy, Diego_tok08 commented "I found it. The biggest fags on Tik Tok"

GAGE

Whatever, probably just some jealous kid. Let em hate. Haters are my motivators.

TAYLOR

Ew, dude, that was cringey... Don't ever say that again.

GAGE

Just ignore them, the same way I'm gonna ignore that. Your hatin' is my motivatin'. So hate on my rings all you want, dude. Please.

TAYLOR

Ew. I need more alcohol after that one. (TAYLOR chugs his champagne and pours himself another drink all the way to the brim)

GAGE

Damn, a full chug? I see we're celebrating hard tonight. Have you even had dinner yet?

TAYLOR

Not yet, but fuck it. We're at the start of something big. Let's start thinking about our next video.

GAGE

Already? I guess we can brainstorm while we celebrate.

TAYLOR

You said it earlier- we could do better than just a couple thousand followers.

GAGE

I've got some ideas. We have a good start now, but I think we could be bolder.

TAYLOR

You think we should do an original song for our next video?

GAGE

Even bolder than that. There's this trend..

TAYLOR

A trend?

GAGE

Like a challenge almost.

TAYLOR

I'm listening.

GAGE

You have to hear me out, okay? I'm thinking we play into this femboy shit. The whole "himbo" trend.

TAYLOR

What do you mean?

GAGE

(GAGE takes out a bag) There's a shit ton of viral videos of straight dudes in slutty maid outfits, so I was thinking-

TAYLOR

Dude-

GAGE

(GAGE takes out two maid costumes) We do a singing vid in these.

TAYLOR

(laughing) You're fucking crazy if you think I'm even putting that shit on, let alone posting it.

GAGE

C'mon you saw how the girls responded to the jewelry, they like a guy who's in touch with their feminine side. It's attention grabbing, our views would sky rocket.

TAYLOR

Yeah because people would watch to make fun of us. They already think we're the biggest fags on the app.

GAGE

That was one comment, the kid's balls probably haven't even dropped yet. Middle schoolers are assholes.

TAYLOR

Yeah and right now they seem to be the only people watching our videos. Don't get me wrong, bro, I'm happy for the views, but preteen girls are not my target audience when I'm writing music.

GAGE

You know The Beatles biggest fan base was teenage girls and now they're legends. People still listen to them all these years later, the girls just did it first.

TAYLOR

The Beatles didn't get famous by cross dressing. I'm not wearing a dress on the internet. End of story. I'm getting another shot while you start brainstorming better ideas.

GAGE

I already bought the dresses though.

TAYLOR

So return them.

GAGE

Think of it as a bit. A joke. It's funny and it's popular and it's really not as serious as you're making it out to be.

TAYLOR

I'm not making it serious, I'm just saying I don't wanna do it. I want to be an artist, not a fuckin drag queen.

GAGE

Do you wanna be famous or not?

TAYLOR

I wanna be famous for my music, not for some stupid gimmick.

GAGE

Every famous musician has a gimmick of some kind, this could be ours. It shows personality.

TAYLOR

Maybe your personality includes dressing like a faggot and parading yourself on the internet for tween girls, but I prefer to behave like a real man.

GAGE

Woah woah dude, you're taking this too far.

TAYLOR

I'm just being honest.

GAGE

Are you?

TAYLOR

What?

GAGE

Being honest... (beat) I think you're scared you might like it.

TAYLOR

Oh yeah, I'm terrified! Pass me that tequila, I want another shot. (GAGE moves the tequila further away as a challenge) Dude...

GAGE

Try on the dress and tell me you don't like it.

TAYLOR

Bro, I'm not doing that. Just give me the tequila.

GAGE

You're scared, I know it.

TAYLOR

I'm not fucking scared. Fuck you. (TAYLOR chugs what's left of the champagne) Something like that on the internet could follow us around forever.

GAGE

You're actually so scared of this that now you're drinking to avoid it.

TAYLOR

I'm drinking to drown out your voice. Fuck, you're annoying.

GAGE

What if I try on the dress and I like it? What if I wanna wear dresses in public? Would you still be seen with me?

TAYLOR

I'd still be your friend, but no, I wouldn't wanna go out in public with you in a dress.

GAGE

Holy shit, you're *that* scared of people thinking you're gay that you wouldn't be seen in public with your best friend if I wore a dress.

TAYLOR

It's not personal, you know I love you, man.

GAGE

Do I?

TAYLOR

You should. Just cuz I wouldn't kiss you before, now you're questioning?

GAGE

Taylor, you would tell me if you were gay, right? (silence.) You know I wouldn't care?

TAYLOR

What the fuck are you even saying? You're the one who wants to go out in a dress. You're the faggot here if anything.

GAGE

There's nothing wrong with a dude in a dress.

TAYLOR

Nothing wrong with a *gay* dude in a dress.

GAGE

Well (beat) Are you gay?

TAYLOR

I'm not fucking gay. Fuck you, dude.

GAGE

Taylor, you would tell me though, right? If you were?

TAYLOR

Would you fucking stop with this? I don't have to tell you anything. I'm not-

GAGE

I know about the underwear.

TAYLOR

What are you-

GAGE

The women's underwear. The panties and the thongs and stuff. I wasn't trying to, I was just looking for socks and I saw them on the gr-

TAYLOR

You went snooping through my shit? Are you fucking kidding?!? Look, I don't know whatever the fuck you think you saw, but you don't know what you're talking ab-

GAGE

I saw them and- and I had a flashback to when we were thirteen and having a sleepover and we opened your laptop to watch YouTube or something, and-

TAYLOR

It's not like that, it wasn't like that, that video was just-

GAGE

So you remember it too? You were watching two guys-

TAYLOR

I can explain, I was-

GAGE

And they were both wearing-

TAYLOR

We were literal kids then. We were kids, I didn't know what I was looking at. I didn't know *anything* at that age.

GAGE

But now we're not kids and you still keep a drawer of-

TAYLOR

Stop.

GAGE

Taylor, just tell me. It won't change my opinion of you, nothing's gonna change between us. (beat of silence. TAYLOR is reaching his breaking point.) Are you gay?

TAYLOR

Please, stop, just stop. (long pause) You don't know anything.

GAGE

(silence) I know about the other songbook, too.

TAYLOR

Jesus Christ, I can't have any fucking privacy?

GAGE

I wasn't trying to invade your space, I'm sorry, I know I crossed a line, but dude... Those songs are good.

TAYLOR

They were supposed to be private.

GAGE

We're supposed to be a duo. Were you ever going to tell me that-?

TAYLOR

No. I wasn't ever going to tell anyone, that's why its a whole separate book. It's just for me.

GAGE

I'm not talking about the book-

TAYLOR

Me neither.

GAGE

Taylor, I-

TAYLOR

No one can know... I'm serious, dude... Please... I'm trusting you. No one can know.

GAGE

Your secret is safe with me, but-

TAYLOR

No "buts", we're never gonna talk about this again, okay? We can pretend it never happened, we can drink until our memories block out tonight anyways. (TAYLOR grabs the tequila and swigs)

GAGE

Why?

TAYLOR

You already caught me, isn't that enough? You cracked the case, congrats, I'm gay, you're right. I'm still not wearing the fucking dress. Why do we need to keep talking about this?

GAGE

Because... I love you, man. My feelings about you haven't changed and won't change, and I don't think your family's would either. Why hide?

TAYLOR

Because my feelings about me would change.

GAGE

What do you mean?

TAYLOR

When I look at those overly flamboyant gay dudes, when I see guys on the internet wearing dresses and shit, and then they're all upset that no one takes them seriously. They make me so mad. I don't wanna be like that.

GAGE

You're not that.

TAYLOR

But what if I become that? I just want to be a normal person. To be successful in this industry without having to be a symbol for something or to represent a whole community that I can barely even stand.

GAGE

What bothers you so much about dudes being feminine? You don't have to be feminine if you don't want to.

TAYLOR

Don't I? You were just trying to convince me- nevermind. I used to be feminine. Like really just so obviously gay. So it is in me. But I'm good at hiding it, at being a man.

GAGE

Feminine and gay aren't always synonyms.

TAYLOR

I used to play with barbies and I loved to watch all the princess movies.

GAGE

What stopped that?

TAYLOR

I don't know. Everything, I guess.

GAGE

What do you mean?

TAYLOR

The other kids in my class, my parents, strangers at the toy store giving me weird looks. That shit wasn't acceptable for boys- for real boys. So I gave up all the girly stuff, cuz- i don't know- how could I not?..

GAGE

Jeez, that's hard. I'm sorry.

TAYLOR

Except for music and singing. That's the one part of me I've kept this whole time.

GAGE

But just being feminine doesn't make you gay. Hell, look at me, I wear jewelry, I paint my nails, I still like girls.

TAYLOR

Yeah. (silence)

GAGE

So... um... when did you- you know, um- *know*?

TAYLOR

I think I always knew. (GAGE nods in affirmation) But I think I also always knew I wasn't supposed to be.

GAGE

Fuck that. Fuck what you're "supposed to be".

TAYLOR

If I want to be taken seriously as a musician, or as a man at all, I couldn't be girly and I sure as hell couldn't be gay.

GAGE

Have you been with a guy before?

TAYLOR

Yeah. A few. (silence.)

GAGE

Do you... wear the underwear when you're with them?

TAYLOR

I said I didn't wanna talk about that. It's too- I'm not that kinda gay guy. I'm not.

GAGE

So who do you want to be? Clearly part of you is somewhat interested "that kind" of gay guy. If you could say 'fuck everyone else, I don't give a fuck what they think', who would you be?

TAYLOR

I don't know, dude... I feel like I'm two different people, but neither of them are really me. I'm split. Like behind closed doors- when I'm with a guy- Nevermind, this is too much.

GAGE

You can tell me.

TAYLOR

(big breath out) I become the polar opposite of who I usually am. I'm all feminine, all weak and powerless. It feels terrifying, but it turns me on which only scares me more. It's like this- this overcompensation. It's affirming to myself my worst nightmare, I'm acting too gay, too flamboyant, too femme, too submissive... and its humiliating... but it feels good to confirm that I am exactly what I'm afraid I am. It's self sabotage.

GAGE

So this public version of you who's all confident and manly- is that all fake?

TAYLOR

No, it's not. There's just these two different versions of me. I don't know which I really am. Someone in the middle? Or maybe both?

GAGE

Well I'll be here while you figure it out. I'll figure it out with you.

TAYLOR

Thank you, man.

GAGE

You know what I think? If you say no this time, I'll stop pushing it, I swear, but I still think we should put on the dresses. It's like a safe way to merge those two versions of you. It's trending, and I'll be wearing one too, and you can show off that gay side you've been keeping to yourself with all the plausible deniability if anyone tries to accuse you of anything.

TAYLOR

I don't know, dude, I don't know.

GAGE

Do it for your five year old girly ass self. You said he would've been thrilled.

TAYLOR

Ehhh-

GAGE

And on top of that, it might even get us one step closer to getting signed. A real music duo, you and me, together just like we've always wanted to be. Recording albums, not TikToks.

TAYLOR

Fine. Fuck it. Let's do it.

TAYLOR

Yeah but you weren't showing yourself to the world. You were showing me. That's not vulnerable.

GAGE

Were you ever going to do it yourself?

TAYLOR

No! I made that clear!

GAGE

That's why I felt like I had to! The songs didn't say you were gay, they just said you were different than you pretend to be.

TAYLOR

Oh my god.

GAGE

I'm sorry, man, I didn't mean to hurt you. I knew the songs would do so well because they're so good, and I thought maybe you'd see that and be excited about it.

TAYLOR

I didn't even want you to see those songs, I wrote them for me. What made you think I'd be excited about millions of strangers seeing them?

GAGE

I'm sorry, I am. I can delete them if you want.

TAYLOR

It's too late for that.

GAGE

So I can keep them up?

TAYLOR

That's all you care about? Views?

GAGE

No, Taylor, I care about our career. These songs could get us signed. Could get us to that dream we've been talking about since we were 14. I know it's hard to see it right now, but I did this for us.

TAYLOR

Bullshit.

GAGE

I chose the least personal songs I could find. They never explicitly say you're gay. I tried, Taylor, I did. (GAGE's phone rings, he looks at TAYLOR in an 'im sorry' manner, and answers. TAYLOR is about to walk away when...)

GAGE cont.

Hello. Yeah this is Gage, Taylor is here with me... Yeah we can meet tomorrow, we would love to meet with you. Where?... That's downtown right?... Will we need anything?... Ok yeah, we'll bring a few... Yeah 3 o'clock sounds great! See you then! Thank you so much!

TAYLOR

I'm not going anywhere with you.

GAGE

Not even to discuss a recording contract?

TAYLOR

Don't fuck with me, I'm not in the mood.

GAGE

That was Silverlake Records. They wanna do a demo and discuss potentially signing with them.

TAYLOR

Are you forreal?

GAGE

So you'll come?

TAYLOR

I mean, yeah- yeah I'll come, but I'm still mad.

GAGE

I know I'm sorry. But that's what I was trying to tell you, those songs were what we needed to get our careers really going.

TAYLOR

We would have gotten there anyways, eventually at least. You just got lucky.

GAGE

I haven't steered us wrong yet. We tried the himbo thing, and we gained 100k followers in a week. I posted these and we got a contract meeting. I promise I know what I'm doing. We're gonna be huge.

TAYLOR

(beat) Do you think fame would change us at all?

GAGE

No. We're best bros, always have been always will be.

TAYLOR

You're changing already though. You're in a crop top right now. You pierced your ears.

GAGE

That doesn't change who I am inside though, its a look I'm going for. I'm just... experimenting? It doesn't hurt anyone and it feels good.

TAYLOR

Okay. It just feels... weird.

GAGE

It'll feel normal when we're surrounded by other big celebrities. We gotta look the part, be on top of trends. I heard men in short shorts and even men in skirts might be a thing this summer.

TAYLOR

That feels so fuckin gay though.

GAGE

Then call me an ally, cause I'll be on that shit. They'll credit me with making these trends big.

TAYLOR

You do you man.

GAGE

I am. That's whats gonna get us signed tomorrow.

ACT IScene 3Time

A month later.

SETTING: TAYLOR and GAGE's apartment.

AT RISE: TAYLOR is sitting on a couch drinking. He's clearly had a few. There are half packed suitcases on the ground. GAGE enters and is shocked, both relieved to see TAYLOR and scared to see the suitcases. GAGE sits on the couch next to TAYLOR for a minute in silence. GAGE tears up. Then sobs. Then speaks. TAYLOR will not even look at him.

GAGE

I've been so worried. You're really back, you're okay. I was so worried, but you're back.

TAYLOR

After the label called me to terminate the contract, I had to stay at a hotel for a few days to figure out what next.

GAGE

Your mom told me after I hadn't seen or heard from you for two days. She said you spoke to her.

TAYLOR

I knew my parents were gonna see it one way or another. I had to call and come out to them before they found out.

GAGE

Did it go okay?

TAYLOR

They'd already seen the pictures. People had sent it to them to ask if it was really me.

GAGE

That's so fucked up. I'm so sorry, Taylor.

TAYLOR

I went to a bar that night because I was desperate to drink. When I started to feel too drunk, I stumbled back in the direction of the hotel, but- but I didn't get all the way there.

GAGE

Why not? Did you sleep on the streets? Were you that drunk?

TAYLOR

No, um- I got recognized. By a few guys who'd seen our TikToks.

GAGE

Like fans?

TAYLOR

No. They said they thought I was the biggest fag on the app and um- they knew about the pictures and they- they wanted to see if it was real. So they got me on the ground and um- they took my jeans. I was wearing boxer briefs and they got kinda mad about it, so they started kicking. I don't remember the rest very much.

GAGE

Oh my god. Oh my god, I'm so sorry this happened to you. I- I don't know what to say.

TAYLOR

I went to the police station the next morning. They, uh, they'd found the phone I lost on the bus last month.

GAGE

Well did you tell them about what happened?

TAYLOR

Yeah. They, um, asked a lot of questions, but it didn't... feel right? They wanted to know more about me than the guys, like what I drank, what I wore, what I said... I heard one of them joking in another room about the pictures and I could tell he was showing the other cops. So I kinda just walked out. Didn't even get my phone back.

GAGE

That's so fucked. That's so fucking fucked. You don't deserve any of this. Did the police say how they got the phone? Or when they got it?

TAYLOR

No. But that's where the pictures came from. They were from my old phone, I took all those pictures on that one. I sent them all on snap, I was the only person who had them saved. Doesn't matter now. It's done and I don't feel safe anywhere anymore.

GAGE

I can't believe anyone would do any of this to you. I'm so sorry, Taylor, I had no idea. But you're home, you're safe now!

TAYLOR

I'm not staying here.

GAGE

What-Why not?

TAYLOR

It doesn't feel safe here either. You're what started this whole mess. You exposed my personal songs on the internet, you made me post that video in the dress.

GAGE

I was just trying to get us noticed, I didn't know any of this would happen.

TAYLOR

Well, you got us noticed. Congrats. It's everything I ever dreamed of!

GAGE

You can't really be mad at me for-

TAYLOR

Yes, I can. My life was going great. Then you went snooping through my shit and pushed me to come out and now everything is a disaster. My life is fucking ruined because of you.

GAGE

You still can ha-

TAYLOR

Oh, shut the fuck up! Don't waste your breath. My whole life is ruined. My whole fucking life, dude, and it's all your fault.

Any time someone googles my name they're gonna see is TMZ and Daily Mail. "Washed up tiktok star Taylor Braun, how a pair of underwear ruined a promising music career". FUCKING FUCK. The local Best Buy isn't gonna fucking hire me, let alone an agent or a manager-

GAGE

But Taylor I didn't upload those pictures, that's not my fault. I'm not the one who posted them, or the one who took them. I had nothing to do with these. I've never even sent a nude of myself for this exact reason. We've been wanting to be famous since we were 15, I thought we both knew, we couldn't trust anyone with shit like that.

TAYLOR

So you're saying it's my fault that these leaked? You're so much smarter than me because you've never hid something you're ashamed of?

GAGE

I never said it was your fault or that I was smarter, I just said that I knew shit like this would get out if we ever let it. I mean, not shit like this exactly, but-

TAYLOR

So you think I let it get out, then?

GAGE

No, Taylor, you're twisting my words. I just think that you trusted people you probably shouldn't have, and it's unfair to blame me for what they did. Maybe what I was wrong for pressuring you, but I'm not the only bad guy here.

TAYLOR

"Trusted people you probably shouldn't have"? Yeah, asshole, and out of all the people I trusted who I "probably shouldn't have", I regret trusting you the most. You're not the only bad guy, but you sure are the fucking worst of them. Worse than the dudes who beat the fuck out of me, worse than the men who uploaded my private photos.

GAGE

Why? That doesn't make any sense!

TAYLOR

Because I didn't even want to tell you I was gay in the first place! No one suspected a goddamn thing about me, you weren't even- Then you show up with these stupid fucking dresses and the fucking nail polish and you convince me to record THAT and post it online. Then when I drew my boundaries, you went behind my back and posted my personal songs online.

GAGE

I was only thinking of us!

You were only thinking of you, Gage! You just want to be famous and you don't care how it happens or who you hurt in the process. You're a monster hungry for trends and views and likes and its fucking sick. You don't even like wearing nail polish or rings and shit, you just like the fact that you've become every underdeveloped, preteen girl's "femboy" wet dream. You parade around town cosplaying being a faggot just because you need the attention that fucking badly.

GAGE

Wow. Fucking wow, dude. We've already had this discussion a dozen times, and you're still coming after me just for exploring some new styles. I'm not hurting anyone. I don't get why you can't just let me be. And you're actually gonna judge me for wearing nail polish? You're gonna sit here and tell me that it was all fine and cool when you had photoshoots in your bedroom wearing a lacy hot pink thong-

TAYLOR

FUCK this, fuck you.

GAGE

-But god forbid I ask you to put on a maid costume because I thought it'd help us get discovered? Well why don't you tell me which of those ideas worked out for us and which one didn't? Hm? Because last I checked, I'm discovering what I truly like and finding out how I wanna express myself, and you're sitting here

STILL denying and repressing and pretending to be something you're fucking not, meanwhile dozens of photos and videos of you in the sluttiest, most degrading and compromising positions keep circulating the internet.

TAYLOR

Don't you fucking-

GAGE

I felt bad enough for you because of everything you've been through in the last week, but I feel even worse for you now that I see how you've deluded yourself into believing that any of these problems were caused by a fucking dress.

TAYLOR

You still don't fucking get it!!! Unbelievable! Within an hour of the world finding out I'm gay, I was curled up on the floor getting the shit kicked out of me for doing the exact same shit you were doing. Less even! You get praised for being brave as a straight man in a skirt. You get more fame, and more attention, and more compliments than you've ever gotten before just because you put on a costume. You get to get famous off of my songs, my life, my culture, but I get our contract cut because I'm actually gay. And the whole time you delude yourself into thinking you actually like it or that it "expresses who you really are", when in all reality all you really are is an attention whore. You love that validation and that praise. That's not who you really are, I know the real you better than anyone else.

GAGE

You used to. I don't know the person standing in front of me. You've always belittled me, you've always treated me like I'm your fucking sidekick, you've always been so fucking stubborn in insisting that you get to dictate who we are and what we do, what we sing and when or where. Maybe that's exactly your problem here. I've finally found something for myself, something I'm into and you can't control it. And so you're no longer the big man you thought you were. It reminds you of who you really are: a sissy, a flamer, a fucking faggot. (TAYLOR punches GAGE

in the face causing him to fall to the floor. GAGE tries to get up and TAYLOR kicks him in the stomach/ribs.)

TAYLOR

You wanna step into a gay man's shoes so badly, you wanna see what it's like to be naturally girly? (TAYLOR kicks again) How does it feel? (and again) Don't you ever say that shit again. (TAYLOR crouches to GAGE's level) I hope you feel this every time you look at a fucking skirt. Any time you so much as think about putting on nail polish I want you to remember this moment. And I want you to remember that whatever you're feeling right now isn't half the pain you've caused me. Fuck, my five year old self would beat myself up worse than this whenever someone caught him staring at some gay shit... Here's what's gonna happen next: I'm gonna go back to my room and finish packing. You will either stay here on the floor or get the fuck out of my sight, but when I come back out from my room, you will not be at my eyeline. You'll either be beneath me or you'll be gone altogether, because no matter what we're wearing, no matter who we're sleeping with, no matter what gets posted on the internet, I will always be more of a man than you.

ACT IScene 4Time

A few days later.

SETTING: Split setting. We see TAYLOR in a new space perhaps surrounded by moving boxes. GAGE sits on his bed in his bedroom

AT RISE: TAYLOR is taking a break from unpacking boxes when he sees GAGE's latest tik tok post. GAGE performs the tik tok live from his bedroom.

GAGE (sung)

I'm man enough to know I've made mistakes
Man enough to say when I've been wrong
But not everything can be fixed after it breaks
Other things were broken all along

But a man is still a man even when sad
Even if the smile on his face is just pretend
When the feminine, comes out in him, the gentleness within
Then he'll be an even better man in the end

So I would leave the door unlocked, I'll leave a place set at
the table
I would welcome any growth from any man who's able
To be man enough to know he's man enough no matter what the day
brings
Cause in the end, a man still needs a friend, doesn't matter
what song he sings

END OF PLAY